

**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY-PATENT APPLICATION**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare:

that my citizenship, residence and post office address are as stated below; that I verily believe I am the original, first and sole inventor(if only one is named below) or a joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled :

Hot Press Forming Method, and a Plated Steel Material Therefor and Its Manufacturing Method,  
the specification of which

x was filed as United States application  
Number 10/730,978 on December 10, 2003  
and was amended on December 10, 2003 (if applicable)

x was filed as PCT international application  
Number PCT/JP02/10972 on October 23, 2002  
and was amended under PCT Article 19 on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above. I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a). I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)			Priority Claimed	
<u>2001-324572</u> (Number)	<u>Japan</u> (Country)	<u>23 OCT 2001</u> (Day/Month/Year Filed)	<u>X</u> Yes	<u>      </u> No
<u>2001-324573</u> (Number)	<u>Japan</u> (Country)	<u>23 OCT 2001</u> (Day/Month/Year Filed)	<u>X</u> Yes	<u>      </u> No
<u>2001-342151</u> (Number)	<u>Japan</u> (Country)	<u>07 NOV 2001</u> (Day/Month/Year Filed)	<u>X</u> Yes	<u>      </u> No

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s) or PCT international application(s) designating the United States of America listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application(s) and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

<u>PCT/JP02/10972</u> (Application Ser.No.)	<u>October 23, 2002</u> (Filing Date)	<u>pending</u> (Status) (patented,pending,abandoned)
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Each undersigned applicant hereby appoints **CONRAD J. CLARK (Registration No. 30,340)** and **CHRISTOPHER W. BRODY (Registration No. 33,613)**, as his attorneys with full power of substitution to prosecute the subject application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statement may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

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Inventor's Signature: Kazuhiro Imai Date: January 23, 2004

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